

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : The Files

DATE: 27 January 1960

FROM :

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SUBJECT: Trip Report - High-Speed Electrostatic Printer (10/10/60)

1. On 21 January 1960 a visit was made to [redacted] to inspect the progress on Contract 146-19255-9. Persons contacted at [redacted] were:

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2. Two high-speed printers have been completed for [redacted]. These are the first of six to be built for [redacted]. We are to get the seventh printer. The contractor is in the process of debugging these units. The printers appear to be well made. They are about 37" x 36" x 24" in size, each weighing 300 lbs. Each printer will draw only 7½ amperes at 115 volts. The [redacted] printer will require slightly different input signals from our receive data terminal than those required by the Potter printer (See Attachment A). It is planned that the Laboratory build up this modified circuitry. The Potter output from the data terminal should be also retained in case we move [redacted] printer to the new building in Langley, Va.

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[redacted] printer at Langley could serve as a parallel output to [redacted]. One of the problems encountered in the [redacted] printer is the paper feed speed. The clutch used in the printer for advancing paper requires approximately 20 milliseconds to advance the paper for single spacing. In this time 3 characters could be printed at our high speed of 1600 wpm using the standard teletype format of CRCLRF. Proper formatting can be maintained at 1600 wpm but not at any higher speed or at very low speeds. The contractor will pick out the fastest operating clutch possible for our printer. The clutches vary from 14 milliseconds to 20 milliseconds inherently from clutch to clutch. This will make the operating speed more versatile.

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3. The problem of spare parts was discussed in some detail. We are to get \$4,300 worth of spare parts. One of the major items will be one read head at \$1,448. This consists of the 5 x 7 matrix for printing a character. One clutch plus spares for another clutch will also be delivered. The reason for this is that the expected life of a clutch is 10 million operations. One line advance is an operation.

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The contractor will supply a suggested spare parts list for our approval. [redacted] will also submit in the near future a proposal for training 2 men at the plant during the month of May 1960 for 1 week. These men will be trained in maintenance and operation of the high-speed printer. Before training starts instruction manuals will be sent to us for student study. The instruction manuals are already 90% completed.

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Distribution:

✓ R+D Subject w/attachment
R+D Lab w/o attachment
Monthly (2) w/o attachment
EP Chrono w/o attachment

Attachment:

Letter from [redacted] dated 9 December 1959 with
Attachment A.

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Next 2 Page(s) In Document Denied